

Smuggling of Narcotics

1175. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether narcotics smuggling has enormously increased during the past few years as is evident from the hundreds of cases pending in courts;

(b) whether it is a fact that only a few kingpins have been caught and most of the persons arrested are those who act on behalf of those kingpins;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the stringent measures taken or proposed to be taken curb drug trafficking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) It is difficult to qualify extent of smuggling of drugs. However, there has been a sharp increase in the quantities of drugs seized in recent years.

(b) and (c) It is not always possible to nab the kingpins as they act from behind the scenes. Moreover, the main racketeers are based either at the source or the destination country as India is mainly a transit country for narcotic drugs.

(d) The field formations remain vigilant to curb such illicit activities. The preventive and intelligence machinery has been geared up and appropriate enforcement measures are taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned. A liberalised reward scheme has been introduced by the Government under which both the Central and State enforcement officers and their informers are entitled to rewards for drug seizures. The drug offenders are proceeded against and punished under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985.

Delay in Export Orders Execution

1176. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several export orders bagged by the Indian firms are lost due to delay in obtaining permission because of procedural wrangles; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures under consideration of Government to ensure that the export orders obtained are executed promptly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The export licences are issued expeditiously. The Export Policy is under review to further streamline the policy and procedures for expeditious execution of export orders.

Request to Improve Raw Cotton Situation

1177. SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT :
SHRI LALITESWAR PRASAD
SHAHI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Northern India Textile Mills Association has urged Government to improve the raw cotton situation failing which the textile mills on the north might close down;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take improve the raw cotton position to save the textile mills ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) A representation was received from Northern India Textile Mills Association.

(b) and (c) Prices of cotton have shown a declining trend. However, Government is keeping a careful watch on the situation. Export of staple cotton has been suspended since July, 1987.

Modernisation of Jute Mills

1178. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :